

Stress TLC (training, leadership, caring)

During my first year in this job I've traveled thousands of miles and, more importantly, talked to hundreds of soldiers. They've told me in very blunt terms how sponsorship, Family Support, promotions, benefits and training are going for Operation Joint Guard. Based on their assessment, our senior noncommissioned officer leadership is not receiving high grades.

The solution to many of our problems is an age-old link between leader and led called communication. Senior NCOs tell me sponsorship programs are alive and well; soldiers tell me the programs are dead and buried. We, the NCO corps, must do a better job of closing the communication gap. We, the NCO corps, must walk

the walk and follow up to ensure what should be done is in fact getting done.

NCOs have three inherent responsibilities – training, leadership and caring –

TLC. Training must be tough, realistic, to Army standards. Leadership means making decisions, sometimes unpopular, that support the mission. Caring means telling a soldier he's not ready for NCOES because of weak P.T.

Leadership is a tough job. It works best by communicating, both up and down the chain-of-command.

We, the NCO corps, cannot let soldier programs exist only in recruiting brochures. We, the NCO corps, must implement, supervise, train. That's our job.



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